

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 SP-02 NEA-10 IO-14 /051 W  
-----098882 151640Z /50  
R 151614Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO USINFO WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0887

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 02539

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH TIMES AUGUST 15, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE IRISH TIMES  
AUGUST 15, 1978 UNDER THE HEADING DANGEROUS TALK:

THE ROW WHICH HAS BROKEN OUT OVER ISRAELI PLANS TO  
SITE FIVE NEW PARAMILITARY SETTLEMENTS IN THE JORDAN  
VALLEY UNCOMFORTABLY RECALLS SIMILAR EXPANSION  
ACTIVITY LAST YEAR IN NORTHERN SINAI SHORTLY  
AFTER PRESIDENT SADAT'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM: THAT,  
IT WILL BE REMEMBERED, PLAYED A PART IN SILENCING THE  
ORIGINAL EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE. THERE IS THE  
OBVIOUS DANGER NOW THAT THE REVELATION OF THE JORDAN  
VALLEY PROJECT COULD UNDERMINE THE SEPTEMBER SUMMIT,  
AT WHICH MR. SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL  
MEET UNDER THE AUSPICES, AND CHAIRMANSHIP, OF PRESIDENT  
CARTER.

THERE ARE DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER, BETWEEN THE TWO  
SETTLEMENT CRISES. IT SEEMS THAT THE JORDAN PLANS  
WERE ORIGINATED NOT ONLY BEFORE MR. CARTER'S  
INVITATIONS WERE SENT OUT AND ACCEPTED, BUT BEFORE  
THE EARLIER LEEDS CASTLE TALKS. THE ISRAELI  
CABINET WAS DUE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER NEXT WEEKEND;  
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BUT THE NEWS LEAKED, CAUSING ALARM AT HOME AND  
ABROAD, AND THERE WAS A CLUMSY ATTEMPT AT CENSORSHIP,  
WHICH BACKFIRED. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT  
HAD TO ACT IMMEDIATELY TO TRY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

YESTERDAY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MR. YADIN, IN  
THE ABSENCE OF HOLIDAY OF MR. BEGIN - BUT PRESUMABLY

WITH HIS APPROVAL - ANNOUNCED THAT THE QUESTION OF NEW SETTLEMENTS WOULD REMAIN IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMIT. THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID FIRMLY, WAS QUITE CLEAR; AND HE HINTED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MATTER MIGHT NEVER BE RAISED AGAIN. MR. YADIN WAS DOING HIS BEST TO CALM THE TURBULENCE, AND TO ASSURE ALL CRITICS THAT, IN THESE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE WAS NO REASON TO FEAR THAT THE DELICATE BALANCE AT CAMP DAVID WOULD BE UPSET.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF, WHO DOES NOT BELONG TO MR. BEGIN'S LIKUD GROUPING, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE OPPOSED THE PLAN FROM ITS INCEPTION; AND HE IS NOW DOING WHAT HE CAN TO CLEAR UP THE MESS - OR, RATHER, TO PRETEND THAT THERE IS NO MESS. SOME DAMAGE CERTAINLY HAS BEEN DONE. IT IS NOW KNOWN THAT SOME POWERFUL ELEMENTS IN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WERE TINKERING WITH THE IDEA EVEN AFTER THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED. ANY LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOOD FAITH OF ANY OF THE PARTIES CANNOT BE AFFORDED IN THE SHORT BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 5TH.

THE DECLARED PURPOSE OF THE ISRAELIS IN PLANNING THE SETTLEMENTS IS TO PROVIDE SECURITY. THE ARABS, HOWEVER, NOW AS IN THE PAST, INTERPRET ALL SUCH MOVES AS ELEMENTS IN A POLICY OF TERRITORIAL EXPANSION. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DISTINCTION BETWEEN SECURITY AND EXPANSION, TOGETHER WITH THE PROVISION OF A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS, IS AT THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. UNLIKE MOST OF HIS PREDECESSORS IN THE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, MR. BEGIN HAS FREQUENTLY BLURRED THE CONCEPTS OF DEFENSIVE NECESSITY AND AGGRANDISEMENT BASED ON WHAT HE REGARDS AS THE HISTORIC ENTITLEMENTS OF HIS PEOPLE.

IN THE HIGH-RISK ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILS, NOTHING WOULD BE EASIER THAN TO SABOTAGE THE CAMP DAVID TALKS BEFORE THEY START. THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE, SHOWED HIMSELF ALERT TO THIS DANGER WHEN, ON EMERGING FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETING OF A CLOSED SESSION OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT ENGAGING IN "EXTENSIVE SPECULATION" ABOUT THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED TO OPPOSE THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND SUCH SETTLEMENTS AS THOSE PROPOSED FOR THE JORDAN VALLEY. IT IS A FAIR GUESS - THOUGH MR. VANCE DID NOT SAY AS MUCH - THAT WASHINGTON WOULD

HAVE BEEN BETTER PLEASED BY AN UNCONDITIONAL  
CANCELLATION OF THE LATEST PLAN RATHER THAN A  
DECISION TO POSTPONE ITS EXAMINATION.

IF CAMP DAVID WERE TO BE CALLED OFF FOR ANY REASON,  
THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE AS DISASTROUS AS IF THE  
PARTIES MET AND FAILED TO MAKE PROGRESS. THIS WILL  
BE MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER SUMMIT: THE THREE LEADERS  
CAN DECIDE ON PEACE OR WAR. IF THERE IS TO BE

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MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE  
EVIDENCE OF CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT. IT IS A MEASURE  
OF THE WEIGHT OF THE OCCASION THAT MR. CARTER IS  
GAMBLING HIS POLITICAL FUTURE ON IT, WHICH MEANS  
THAT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY  
WILL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BE NOTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE.  
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## Message Attributes

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